

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GW, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: ACTIVITIES OF FORMER GERMAN DIPLOMAT

KURBJUHN

REFS: A) BONN 13540; B) NICOSIA 1816

1. AS NOTED REF A, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS SOME DOUBTS
ABOUT PAUL KURBJUHN'S ACTIVITIES SINCE HIS RETIREMENT.
AT THE SAME TIME, A LONG ARTICLE IN THE GERMAN WEEKLY,
DER SPIEGEL, PRESENTS A MORE FAVORABLE PICTURE OF THE
FORMER GERMAN DIPLOMAT.

2. THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE IS SUBTITLED "DIPLOMAT PAUL
KURBJUHN WAS AN IRRITANT TO THE RULERS OF CYPRUS BECAUSE
OF HIS GOOD CONNECTIONS ON THE ISLAND. THEY (THE RULERS)
WERE AWARE OF HIS CRITICAL REPORTS TO BONN AND TRIED TO
BLAME HIM FOR A CONSPIRACY ALONG WITH FRANZ JOSEF
STRAUSS." THE ARTICLE OUTLINES THE CHARGES THAT
KURBJUHN WAS INVOLVED WITH EOKA-B, STRAUSS AND THE
ISRAELIS IN A RIGHT-WING PLOT TO OVERTHROW KYPRIANOU.
ACCORDING TO SPIEGEL, THE CHARGES AGAINST KURBJUHN STEM
FROM GOC IRRITATION OVER HIS POLITICAL REPORTING WHILE
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AT THE FRG EMBASSY. KURBJUHN'S REPORTING WAS JUDGED
BY THE GOC TO BE BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS.
SPIEGEL MAINTAINS THAT SOMEONE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE
REGULARLY LEAKED KURBJUHN'S TELEGRAMS TO THE CYPRIOT
AMBASSADOR IN BONN, TASOS PANAYIDES.

3. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT KURBJUHN WAS NOT AT

LARNAKA AIRPORT ON FEBRUARY 19 AND THAT THE GOC WAS CONFUSED ON THIS SCORE BECAUSE OF HIS PRESENCE IN THE CONTROL TOWER DURING THE BRIEF STOPOVER OF THE HIJACKED LUFTHANSA "LANDSHUT" IN OCTOBER, 1977. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT KYPRIANOU WAS ATTEMPTING, THROUGH HIS CHARGES OF A CONSPIRACY, TO TORPEDO AN EMERGING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CLERIDES AND PAPADOPoulos WITH THE TURKS. THE ANTI-GERMAN NOTE, INCLUDING THE ACCUSATION AGAINST KURBUJHN, WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE HANDIWORK OF LYSSARIDES.

4. A FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE BELIEVES THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY KURBUJHN. OUR SOURCE ADVISES THAT, SINCE HIS RETIREMENT, KURBUJHN HAS SERVED AS A CONTACT MAN FOR SPD OFFICIAL HORST EHMKE. ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION, KURBUJHN MAY (REPEAT) MAY HAVE CHANNELED FUNDS FROM THE SPD TO CLERIDES (OUR SOURCE CLAIMS KURBUJHN HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS DURING HIS EMBASSY STINT BUT HAS ALWAYS HAD CLOSE TIES TO GREEK CYPRIOTS, PARTICULARLY THE CLERIDES WING). REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE REPORT OF FUNDING IS ACCURATE, OUR CONTACT MAINTAINS THAT KURBUJHN'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF CLERIDES, AND NOT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, LED TO HIS BEING DECLARED PERSONA NON-GRATA.

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5. OUR SOURCE DENIED THAT KURBUJHN'S CABLES WERE LEAKED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT KURBUJHN'S REPORTING, WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN FAIRLY EVEN-HANDED, MAY HAVE BEEN LEAKED TO THE GOC BY A GERMAN EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY IN NICOSIA. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED THAT ONE OF THE GERMAN EMPLOYEES AT THE EMBASSY MIGHT BE LEAKING INFORMATION TO HER GREEK CYPRIOT HUSBAND.

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